

# Dayton's Bluff District Forum

Volume 32, No. 5  
June 2019  
daytonsbluffdistrictforum.org

"The Voice of the Community"



Jennifer Gascoigne

Two Minneapolis & Saint Paul Home Tour visitors stopping by 735 Margaret Street, a Queen Anne style Victorian structure historically known as the Charles Grew House, to see the property in the early stages of renovation. This grand home features original 1890s woodwork, an ornately tiled fireplace (in excellent condition!) and lots of space. This Dayton's Bluff home was spared the wrecking ball and became a renovation collaboration between Dayton's Bluff, Ramsey County, and the City of Saint Paul. Work began in August 2018, and is expected to be completed in September 2019.

## Friends of Swede Hollow Photo Contest: Photographers wanted!

*Karin DuPaul  
Forum Staff*

Friends of Swede Hollow is hosting a Spring Swede Hollow Photo Contest. Photos must be taken in Swede Hollow Park between March 21 and June 20, 2019. Email your photos

in .jpg format to [karindupaul@comcast.net](mailto:karindupaul@comcast.net) by or before **June 23, 2019**.

Please put "FOSH Spring Photo Contest" in the subject line, your contact information within the body of the email, and if you'd like, the title of your image. Prizes are first place - \$75, second place - \$50, and third place - \$25. Judging will be done by the East Side Arts Council.

*Karin DuPaul can be reached at [daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com](mailto:daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com).*

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## Don't miss the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Art in the Hollow!

*Karin DuPaul  
Forum Staff*

The 10<sup>th</sup> annual Art in the Hollow is coming to Swede Hollow Park on **Saturday, June 1, 2019!** Join your neighbors for a day of visual arts, sculpture, and musical performance. Art in the Hollow will begin at **10:00 a.m.** with a Mariachi band at the Drewry entrance. Arrive early to be a part of the procession through the tunnel that leads into the festival. There will be food trucks at the intersection of Drewry Lane and Beaumont Street. Parking is available on the streets and at Hope Community Academy at 720 Payne Avenue in the parking lot.

There will be dozens of artists set up along the walking path that wraps around the park. There will be music and entertainment all day on the Swede Hollow

Stage, and the chance to talk with historians about the origins and history of Swede Hollow immigrant communities through out the years.

The TAP, a local social organization, and its literary club, Urban Journal, will be on hand, hosting an all-day spoken-word performance with open stage time in the south tunnel (the East 7<sup>th</sup> Street Improvement Arches) entrance at 7<sup>th</sup> Street and Payne Avenue. The event is family, children, and pet-friendly.

Visit [artinthehollow.org](http://artinthehollow.org) or Facebook for more information about the four park entrances and parking areas located around the Hollow. Hope to see you down in the Hollow June 1!

Also on **June 1**, Indigenous Roots Cultural Center hosts the grand reopening event of Hamm Park at Greenbrier and East 7<sup>th</sup> Street starting at **9:30 a.m.** which will include taking visitors on a walk down the stairway into Swede Hollow Park to the Art in the Hollow arts festival. Hamm Park has been under reconstruction for a number of months.

*Karin DuPaul can be reached at [daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com](mailto:daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com).*



Karin DuPaul

Visitors taking in a previous year's Art in the Hollow, processing through the Drewry Tunnel into picturesque Swede Hollow Park.



Steve Trimble

Saturday, April 20, was an egg-s-tra special day on the Bluff. Mounds Park United Methodist Church invited the community to take part in their annual Easter Egg Hunt, held each year at Indian Mounds Park. The big bunny himself was on-hand (on paw?) to give hugs and spread springtime cheer to Dayton's Bluff.

## Dayton's Bluff Take-a-Hike

On the second Saturday of most months, the Dayton's Bluff Take-a-Hike will begin at Indian Mounds Park, at Earl Street and Mounds Boulevard, at **10:30 a.m.** The next hike will be on **Saturday, June 8.** The hike is approximately one and a half to two hours long and will end at Swede Hollow Park or East Side Heritage Park, depending on the desire of the hikers. Share and learn a little history along the way! Email [karindupaul@comcast.net](mailto:karindupaul@comcast.net) or call 651-776-0550 for more information.

## Friends of Swede Hollow

Watch over, restore, and celebrate the history of Swede Hollow Park. Join the Swede Hollow community at their monthly meeting on **Thursday, June 6, at 6:30 p.m.** Email [karindupaul@comcast.net](mailto:karindupaul@comcast.net) or call 651-776-0550 for more information and the meeting's location.

## Dayton's Bluff District Forum Board Meeting

The *Forum* is seeking writers and help with online content, idea generation, and ad sales – join us at our next meeting on **Friday, June 7, at 1:00 p.m.**, at Swede Hollow Cafe at 725 E. 7<sup>th</sup> Street. Call 651-776-0550 or email [daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com](mailto:daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com) for more information.

## Police Community Meetings

The Eastern District Saint Paul Police will host their monthly meetings for community members at the Eastern District Police Office at 722 Payne Avenue, on the corner of Payne and Minnehaha.

The next meetings are on **Wednesday, June 19, at 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.** Meetings are intended to be a time to listen to and address concerns about crime and other issues on the East Side.

## SNAP Food Program at CLUES (Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio)

¿Necesita más comida saludable para la familia? El programa SNAP le puede ayudar. SNAP proporciona fondos para alimentos que benefician a familias de escasos recursos.

Aún si no es ciudadano, si tiene hijos nacidos en este país ellos podrían calificar. Participar en el programa SNAP no afectará su estatus migratorio.

¡Llame a CLUES para saber si califica! 612-746-3500. Nuestro personal bilingüe puede facilitar el proceso para usted y su familia.

Need healthy food for your family? The SNAP program provides funds for low-income families to buy food. Even if you are not a citizen, your children born in this country could qualify. Participation in the SNAP program won't affect their immigration status.

Call CLUES to find out if you qualify at 612-746-3500. Our bilingual staff can facilitate the process for your family.

## Twin Cities Mobile Market

The Twin Cities Mobile Market is a grocery store on wheels that brings affordable, healthy food directly into neighborhoods. The Mobile Market stops at Parkway Gardens Apartments, located at 1145 Hudson Road, on **Wednesdays, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**



THE HISTORIC  
MOUNDS  
THEATRE

**May 31 - June 2:** 2 Defy Gravity presents *Circus Splendor*. *Circus Splendor* is a performance combining the art of contemporary circus with other art forms to push the boundaries of circus today. This all ages cabaret-style show will feature innovative and exciting pieces choreographed and performed by local circus artists. Join us and be inspired by the strength and power of these amazing performers! **Show times:** Friday, May 31 and Saturday, June 1 at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, June 2 at 2:00 p.m. Tickets: Presale - \$25 adults/\$15 kids 12 and under; At the door - \$30 adults/\$20 kids 12 and under.

**Saturday, June 8:** Midwest All-Star Wrestling returns to the Mounds Theater for *MAW Live Season Finale: You Can't Take It With You*. Rylie Jackson and The Real McCoy JDX will be in action at the Season 2 Finale! The Prospect Cup will be decided as all six competitors compete for points and the Inaugural MAW Prospect Cup featuring The System, BJ Seestrom. The Maverick., Paul Virk, Damon Spriggle, Levy Cruise, and Jerry Uhrlicher. Eliminations may be by pinfall, submission, or point elimination! The MAW Title Match will be on the line in a Ladder Match! (Card and talent subject to change.) And as always, Heel Turn Radio will be calling all the action LIVE from the Haunted Balcony. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. and the show kicks off at 7:00 p.m. Tickets: General admission (in advance): \$9 adults, \$7 kids; General admission (at the door): \$12 adults, \$8 kids; VIP ringside seating (in advance): \$15 adults, \$10 kids. VIP preferred seating (at the door): \$15 adults, \$10 kids.

**June 14 - 22:** Desperate For Approval presents: *Facility Six*, a comedy by Marino and Elizabeth Eccher. The lab is on lockdown. The military has taken over. The exes won't stop bickering. And somewhere in the facility, something is waiting. Join Desperate for Approval for a new sci-fi mystery comedy where otherworldly forces collide with the human condition. All shows start at 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$15.

Visit [moundstheatre.org](http://moundstheatre.org) for more information on upcoming events. The Historic Mounds Theatre is located at 1029 Hudson Road, St. Paul, MN 55106; 651-772-2253; [historicmoundstheatre@gmail.com](mailto:historicmoundstheatre@gmail.com).

## June at the Dayton's Bluff Library

The following events take place at the Dayton's Bluff library, 645 East Seventh Street, Saint Paul.

**Tuesday, June 11, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.,** *Teens Know Best!* Teens have exclusive access to books before they are published.

This group meets on the second Tuesday of every month to share opinions and pizza. *Teens Know Best* members write reviews of the books they read. The reviews are submitted to the publishers to help guide their decisions.

*Summer Spark* kicks off on Wednesdays in June. **Beginning June 12,** Wednesdays throughout the summer will feature performances and other fun activities for kids from **3:00-4:00 p.m.**

Don't miss *Mrs. Marvel's Sandbox Circus* of family fun presented by Open Eye Theatre on **Wednesday, June 25, from 5:30-8:00 p.m.**

Did you know that you can check out board games at the library? Library visitors can play the games in the library or check them out for two weeks. The full list of games can be viewed at <http://bit.ly/MetroGames> and all are available to the public.

For information about these and other events check [spl.org](http://spl.org) or call 651-793-1699. The Dayton's Bluff Library shares its home with Metropolitan State University at 645 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street.

## Wish List Care Packages

Help East Side Elders distribute food, hygiene items, and more to seniors on the East Side by shopping their Amazon Wish List!

Visit [www.amazon.com/registry/wish-list/3KK001OGFO5NJ](http://www.amazon.com/registry/wish-list/3KK001OGFO5NJ). You can have these much-needed items sent right to their office. From there, a team of volunteers will distribute them to seniors in need.

With the help of supporters like you, East Side Elders is able to supply groceries and personal care items to seniors in the community, at no charge to them. These items help stretch their monthly budgets and give them access to healthy food and much-needed personal care products. Donations can also be dropped off at our office: East Side Elders, 463 Maria Avenue Suite 201, St. Paul, MN 55106. A printable wish list can also be found on our website.

## Grocery Shopping

Did you know that East Side Elders can help you and your loved one with grocery shopping?

Let East Side Elders take a chore off your long to-do list! To get help with grocery shopping, call 651-683-2326 or email [Info@EastSideElders.org](mailto:Info@EastSideElders.org) with a detailed list. From there, East Side Elders staff put a call out to their grocery shopping team and schedule a day and time that works for you and the volunteer for delivery.

Grocery shopping is a donation-based service. Donate what you can for the convenience of not having to head out to the store. Reimbursement for the groceries can be done directly with the volunteer - they will bring you a receipt when they make their delivery.

## Business Classes

The Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Microentrepreneur class helps start-up and young businesses on the East Side. All East Side entrepreneurs are welcome. Class training lasts 12 weeks and includes topics such as operations management, marketing, financial management, one-on-one assistance with creating a successful business, and developing a business plan, plus eight

hours of one-on-one assistance with creating and preparing a business plan.

Those who successfully complete the course are eligible for ongoing business support services (they don't have to locate their business in target neighborhoods to be eligible).

The course is sponsored by the Dayton's Bluff Community Council and the Neighborhood Development Center. There is a small registration fee based on a sliding scale. Class size is limited, so sign up now. Please call the training department at 651-379-8113.

## Free Help for East Side Pets

The Animal Humane Society's Community Outreach program offers special clinics for pets on the East Side. The events provide free wellness exams, vaccines, nail trims, spay/neuter appointment scheduling, guidance from the AHS behavior team and St. Paul Animal Control, free pet food, and more.

For information on upcoming events and locations call 651-788-4685 or visit <http://animalhumanesociety.org/outreach-services-frogtown-and-east-st-paul>.

## Vacation Bible School at Mounds Park United Methodist Church

Join Mounds Park UMC for a week of Vacation Bible School from **June 30 through July 3.** Hours: Sunday, June 30, from 3:00-6:00 p.m., Monday-Tuesday, July 1-2, from 9:00 a.m. to noon, and Wednesday, July 3, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Lunch will be provided to all families on July 3, to celebrate the last day of Vacation Bible School!

This year, VBS features the theme of *Roar: Life is Wild, God is Good*, taught by a large group of teachers and high school volunteer teachers.

Contact the church office at 651-774-8736 to pick up a registration packet or visit [moundsparkumc.org](http://moundsparkumc.org). All children must have the approval of a parent or guardian and a completed health form to participate.

## Monthly Grocery Giveaway

Join Mounds Park United Methodist Church, located at 1049 Euclid Street, from **10:00 a.m. - noon on Saturday, June 22,** to receive free groceries. Monthly grocery giveaways are hosted by Dayton's Bluff Community Services in partnership with Mounds Park United Methodist Church. **Come at 9:30 a.m. for coffee.**

## Annual Community Picnic

Join Mounds Park United Methodist Church on **Wednesday, June 12, from 6:00-8:00 p.m.,** at Indian Mounds Regional Park's large shelter (by the playground at Earl Street and Mounds Boulevard). There will be plenty of food, live music, and a treasure hunt. Family friendly and free to the public. Bring lawn chairs and blankets to enjoy the music while you relax.

Brought to you by Urban CROSS, in partnership with Dayton's Bluff Community Services and Mounds Park United Methodist Church.

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 animal humane society

## Contest: Where in Dayton's Bluff?

Send your guess to [daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com](mailto:daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com) with the location of the neighborhood curiosity pictured below. The reader who submits the first correct entry will be notified and the winner will be announced in the July edition of the *Forum*.



## Critic's Corner: A dash of culture comes to Dayton's Bluff

Mozart's opera "Cosi Fan Tutte" at the Mounds Theatre

Amerigo Vespucci  
Forum opera critic

Full disclosure: Yes, I am Italian and therefore expected to be an aficionado of opera, but truth be told, I am not. I would normally rather eat lasagna made with Velveeta and cottage cheese (which, for you philistines out there, is a bad thing) than attend an opera. I take great pride in the fact that in my 68 years I have never gone to a live opera or watched more than a few minutes of one on PBS. I am familiar with some opera due to my father's inexplicable fondness for it and my own fondness for old Warner Bros. cartoons.

Be that as it may, I took it upon myself to make the arduous three-block trek to the Historic Mounds Theatre to see *Cosi Fan Tutte*, an opera written in 1790 with music by none other than Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart himself, and libretto by Lorenzo da Ponte.

While music is universal, Italian is not. Fortunately, this production was translated into English and the setting was modernized to the present time. *Cosi*, as its fans call it, is considered a comedy and, unlike a Shakespearean comedy, is actually funny, often bordering on slapstick. Parts of the story

seemed familiar because other writers have been "borrowing" from it for over 200 years.

*Cosi* was presented by Skylark Opera Theater whose *raison d'être* is to bring opera to nontraditional venues in an intimate setting at fairly reasonable ticket prices. The Mounds Theatre provided a perfect venue. It has excellent acoustics requiring no electronic amplification for either the outstanding singers or the single grand piano that provided the music.

A thrust stage was built out from the main stage with diagonal rows of seats on either side, giving everyone in the audience an excellent view. The set was simplicity itself, consisting of chairs and tables and the grand piano. Many overturned chairs of various styles were strewn about the stages, obviously representing the unconventional and tradition-breaking presentation of this version of *Cosi*.

*Cosi* played to full houses at each performance with extra seats added as needed. The audiences definitely weren't your typical stuffed-shirt opera types. There were no tuxedos or evening gowns in evidence but more than one flannel shirt was spotted. Everyone enjoyed the show, the likes of which hasn't been seen at the Mound Theatre since Nelson Eddy and Jeanette MacDonald operettas were shown there on the silver screen in the 1930s and 1940s.

Even this hardened critic has to admit that he was thoroughly entertained by *Cosi*. He can only say "Bravissimo" and hope Skylark will bring another opera to Dayton's Bluff in the future.



Photo courtesy of Skylark Opera

The ladies of Mozart's opera "Cosi Fan Tutte" at the Mounds Theatre.



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Next issue: July 2019. **Deadline for material: June 10, 2019.**

## Urban CROSS 2019

Eric Buck

Mounds Park United Methodist Church

Urban CROSS is a week of serving the Dayton's Bluff community and surrounding area, and is hosted by Dayton's Bluff Community Services and Mounds Park United Methodist Church. Each year we serve households and non-profit organizations. Projects include the likes of simple construction, yard work and landscaping, indoor and outdoor painting, cleaning, and organizing.

There are many ways you can help us help our community. We are looking for homeowners and non-profits to serve. We are looking for individuals and groups who would like to work along side us with these projects. We are looking for individuals and groups who would like to help with the hospitality of our "campers." We are also looking for donations of tools and supplies, as well as food for our staff.

This year's Urban CROSS is the week of June 9-15. We'd love to have you be a part of it. Please contact Eric Buck, Director of Urban CROSS, at (651)774-8736.

## See Jane Run — Again!

Mark Gallagher  
Associate Editor

Jane Prince is campaigning as an incumbent for a seat on the St. Paul city council, representing Ward 7. Jane first ran for city council to represent that ward in 2015 and was elected November 3 of that year, partly because of her strong work ethic and her passionate voice for the part of the city she was hoping to represent.

When Prince graduated from high school, she didn't exactly know what she wanted to do with her life. "My dad was a lawyer," she said. "His father was also a lawyer and they had a small firm in Brockton, Massachusetts. I had this expectation, I think, that when you grow up you get involved in your community."

My parents were on all kinds of boards. My mother was a girl-scout leader and a volunteer at the hospital. My dad was a trustee at the hospital and was involved as an executive with the Boy Scouts. Then my dad became the court administrator, which was an elected position called clerk of courts in our county, Plymouth County, which my mother always said was the first county in the United States.

"And so, being around public service and community service really shaped who I am. I just always have enjoyed it and I figured I would go into some kind of public service, but I wasn't sure what. Also, I used to do a lot of art, and that was a big part of my life. I did a little drawing, and it was just a hobby and a pastime, plus I briefly was an illustrator."

In 1975, Prince received a B.A. in English, Russian, and art from the University of New Hampshire. She has experience in communication and community relations and was the Association director of development at St. Paul Academy from 1989 to 1996. From 1997 to 2007, Prince worked as a Legislative aide for the St. Paul City Council and from 1998 to 2007, was a Legislative aide for the City of St. Paul. She also earned a J.D. from Hamline University in 2007.

One of Jane Prince's goals when she ran for St. Paul City Council in 2015 was to focus on the kids in Ward 7. In 2008 during the recession, the city had to cut back its programs and facilities. The city closed three recreation centers in Ward 7, and Ward 7 is one of the most multicultural wards in the city. "We have lots of new immigrants such as: Karen, Latino, and East African," Prince said, "and we have large concentrations of poverty. Also, it goes with poverty that there are a large number of families without a car, and so a lot of those families are relying on neighborhood recreation centers for their children to have a place to go and connect with caring adults."

Prince feels like she succeeded because two of the three recreation centers reopened, but she is now, in her reelection bid, concerned with getting some vacant sites in Ward 7 developed into affordable housing. "We have some really good, promising development sites in our ward," Prince said, "and I want to work with our community to get developers to come here."

"Then the big opportunity, although it's not in my ward but is super important to the East Side, is the redevelopment of the Hillcrest Golf Course, which is a site the size of the Ford site in Highland Park. It's actually, I would argue, an even better site because it's a lot cleaner and it has grass. I think there are some pollution issues at the site but not like there would be from heavy industry."

"Although the Ford site has been cleaned up now, the Hillcrest site would take a lot less clean up; it's a beautiful site with some of the highest elevations in the city. You can see both Minneapolis and St. Paul skylines from up there. I think we have a great opportunity to build a whole new community there, and it has 120 acres."

The thing Prince loves about local politics is if you get the right people in a room, good ideas bubble up from the community: You can come together, work on ideas, and make things happen. Over the years that she has worked in city government and then as a lawyer, she has found that if the ordinances, or the city law is keeping a person from being able to move forward on something, it takes a majority of the council to change a law. Anything that you want to get done at the city level, you can have an impact.

"It's easier to have an impact at the local levels than it is at higher levels of government," Prince said. "I also like working to come to an agreement if there is conflict over an issue, and I just love it that at the local level, you can put people in a room and you can work it out. You can make compromises to see if there are opportunities for some give and take. I love that politics brings people into the equation and you can work stuff out as a community — to be the community that you want to be."

There is one issue that Prince would like to see prioritized in Ward 7, and that is to redevelop the vacant sites in the area. "We need to get these sites developed to reflect what the community would like to see," she said. "I think the other thing I feel strongly about is we are the most multicultural part of town. If you look at the history of Swede Hollow, this was the place where the immigrants established themselves and became successful — then moved on from here."

"I still see the East Side as being the place where immigrants come and is more affordable to live, and I like to say that you can get more house for the money here. So

we are a place where people can come and start their lives. We have an opportunity to lift up our whole community together, and to serve the people who are here to create good jobs in our community."

Vomela Cos. is an established business consolidating its four Twin Cities locations in the Beacon Bluff Business Center at Minnehaha Avenue East and Arcade Street. It is a national company with 22 locations in the United States. The 300,000 square foot headquarters will have 252,000 square feet of production space and 47,500 square feet of office space.

They will bring the 300 current Minnesota employees to work under one roof, and Vomela will be hiring 50 to 100 people over the next several years. It's a Port Authority project, and that's the goal, so 70 percent of their new hires must come from this area. Construction of the building was started on September 17, 2018, and is expected to be completed by July 2019.

"Baldinger Bakery just did an expansion," Prince said, "and hired many people from the community. I think we have an opportunity to serve the incredible diversity of people who live here and help them be successful right in our neighborhood. The last thing I want to have happen is a displacement of this great neighborhood. I think the Port Authority said the development in our area is the largest industrial development they have done since the 1960s."

Another issue Prince is focusing on in greater St. Paul is growing the tax base. "I think we have to grow our tax base," Prince said, "because I feel like St. Paul is becoming an expensive place for people to live who are on fixed incomes. I voted for the tax increases, but I think we need to grow our tax base so that much of the tax burden doesn't fall on residential properties. We really need to grow our commercial and industrial tax base."

"So that's one thing, and I really appreciate that the Mayor is putting time and attention into fighting poverty. I think St. Paul is one of the last areas, and I can't remember what study it was, where we are still seeing an increase in poverty tax in our city. I think we need to be really intentional about addressing that, and obviously we need to stabilize people's housing, so getting that housing developed and creating affordable housing for low-wage workers is really a priority."

"I have enjoyed being on the city council," Prince said, "because I love that I have a job where I can quite often meet with people in coffee shops. What a great job. I mean, I get to start my work week having office hours at the Swede Hollow Café."

Jane Prince lives in Dayton's Bluff in the Mounds Park neighborhood. "I enjoy my incredibly diverse neighbors, and I love our great restaurants like Manana, the new Afro Deli and Grill, and Yarusso's" she said. "I mean, it's such a special place; I wouldn't want to live anywhere else."

Mark Gallagher is associate editor of the Dayton's Bluff Forum and a graduate of Metropolitan State University. Mark can be reached at [refineEditorial@gmail.com](mailto:refineEditorial@gmail.com).



Photo courtesy of Facebook/Jane Prince for Ward 7

## St. Paul Art Crawl on the East Side

Elizabeth Wakefield  
Forum Staff

If you thought that the 2019 Spring St. Paul Art Crawl brought new visitors to the East Side, you may be right. This year there were multiple new locations as well as a few old favorites that popped up in the neighborhood. Previous locations like Indigenous Roots, the St. Paul Brewery (formerly known as the Flat Earth Brewery), and Geiger Studios renewed their spaces as locations for artists to display and sell their work east of downtown. There were also several new locations along Payne Avenue to continue the experience.

What looks like sudden growth of interest in the area, has actually been a long time coming. Brenda Brousseau of the St. Paul Arts Collective, the non-profit organization responsible for sponsoring and running the Art Crawl, says that the East Side has had a presence in the Art Crawl since Josephine Geiger started participating 12 years ago.

Geiger is not only an artist; she volunteers for the crawl and has played an integral part in making sure that the area stayed on the map and wasn't underrepresented this year. Geiger came to a meeting with the East Side Artist Salon to seek artists and ideas for locations in the area that might want to serve as spaces for exhibition. There, Geiger met Benjamin Mason who would end up assisting the St. Paul Brewery with running their location this year.

Mason says that the "St. Paul Brewery was very eager to participate and create a good environment for art and

community members to answer questions and address concerns." He also states that it was important that not only did they increase the crowds on the East Side, but that they actually gave people locations to crawl to. "The Payne Avenue locations gave visitors destinations" he added.

Along Payne Avenue there were three newly identified spots on the crawl map as well as 33 installations within the old East Side Financial Services Building. Crawling through those installations was like being fully immersed in ideas, art, and concepts. The location was a secondary space for Second Shift Studios, who also had showings in their location down the street. Second Shift Studio Space is described as "An artist-led effort to provide better resources to working artists and build communities of arts appreciators." Second Shift is the brainchild of and is operated by Chris Larson, a faculty member of the University of Minnesota Art Department. Larson's ties to the East Side go back four generations. He remembers growing up here with affection and returned after having moved away for 27 years. He says that he has always loved the people and how it's an affordable place to start a business.

What may be considered unique about Larson's spaces and John Oulman's Gallery is that these places didn't have price tags. This actually played a part in attracting certain artists who were interested in having people come to a destination to have an experience. Brousseau commented that this created an overall "rounded art experience on the East Side."

John Oulman's space was particularly known for his peep show, where one could peer with a limited view into a room and get a glimpse of what was happening on the other side of the wall.

Art @ 967 Payne Avenue was right next door to the old bank and was held in a former furniture store. The space was grand and had a very open floor plan. It exhibited an eclectic but very well curated group of artists. The focus was that most of the artists were from the area. This space was organized by Stephan Kistler, a photographer who fell smitten with the area after an unexpected visit. He is in now one of the coordinators for a project called the Payne Avenue Reboot dedicated to revitalizing the area. When asked why there should be art on the East Side, Kistler stated that it is "one of the most diverse areas in St. Paul" and while other areas may be well established, there are a variety of people looking to create and discuss their work here." He continues, "if we can create more opportunities for artists to come here and add studios here, it can add to the vibrancy of the area."

Currently, the Second Shift Studio Space and the John Oulman Gallery maintain permanent residence in the area. Dimitri Hatzigeorgio, a local commercial property owner who is also an active member of the East Side Development Corporation, and Kistler, are now actively working towards converting the Art @ 967 Payne venue into a mixed-use studio, co-working, teaching, and special events space for artists, creators, entrepreneurs, and non-profit organizations.

One of the common sentiments heard at all East Side venues was, "I've never been to this side of town before." This kind of attention and attraction will hopefully continue to grow curiosity for people outside of our neighborhood and perhaps bring more people here to explore.

Elizabeth Wakefield can be reached at [daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com](mailto:daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com).

## View from my porch: Shut my mind

Sage Holben  
Forum Staff

"I'm not sure what is going on. Sean is failing in my class...I am not going to help him at all unless his behavior turns around, his grades improve...I'm not going to hold his hand. It's time for him to start acting like a young man." "Have you told him that face to face, one on one?" "Nope."

This was a typical email conversation I had with the Battle Creek Middle School teacher of a young friend of mine. It is just part of the frustrations of several months of watching the child being yanked back and forth by Mr. 'H' who held the power to allow Sean to go on the annual 8th grade Washington D.C. trip... or not. Apparently the school holds little or no oversight on this teacher's management of the big outing. I won't go into mismanagement of registration fee; nor the lack of response from Joe Gothard, SPPS Superintendent, nor the tepid and ambiguous response of the BCMS principal.

SPPS web site states: "*St. Paul Public Schools is committed to providing a successful middle school model that supports students during a key transition time in their lives. We believe that our young adolescents deserve a middle school experience that is developmentally responsive, challenging, empowering and equitable.*"

There are people who say I am expecting too much of the schools; that they are overwhelmed/overworked/underfunded. I get it. My son's girlfriend teaches middle school and struggles with the tensions of budget, cooperation, time, etc. What I am going to say here will sound so simple, some will consider me quite naive. I am going to speak of one child, a 14-year old black male. Some may say, after reading that he is an anomaly. I can guarantee he is not. As a single parent of two sons, a former foster mom of many teens in crisis, and a past crisis worker with victims of child abuse, domestic violence, and with runaway teens, I can guarantee that behind many doors in Dayton's Bluff and throughout St. Paul, the number of children like Sean live and struggle silently among us.

Over time, Sean has expressed his concern about safety – feeling safe at Conway rec center but not at Dayton's Bluff rec center (his exact words were, "Sage, I'm 14 and I don't want to die." He was concerned about the fighting and 'thugs' who hang out at or near the DB rec center. He likes Conway because staff treat kids with respect [as opposed to DB]; free snacks/food are made available at Conway. Yet Conway is not within walking distance of my neighborhood.

A week ago, he and I sat in my car as he delayed going into school, and he brought up death and dying. Another school shooting had occurred and he said he didn't want to die a violent death, unless he died saving someone else. He talked of what he believed heaven would be; we talked about bullies and personal, emotional strength. He had been facing heavy family situations – not getting sleep because of family chaos; he has been shouldering self-imposed responsibility in meeting rent expenses. He has been missing school because he knew he would just fall asleep in class.

The stress he was carrying was reinforced to me in our 'car conversations' when he talked of other students taunting

him about his clothes; he expressed powerlessness and being overwhelmed by attitudes of his teachers and school staff. He sounded so alienated from his school community. It had long been evident that school was a stressor and weighed on him. Twice on our drives to school he requested that I drive slower... "to make it [the drive] last." I took a longer route, but reaching the school was inevitable no matter how slowly I drove.

I had come to realize that my car, with the heater turned on high to warm him, and the radio off (he understood that I never had the radio on with a passenger) had become a safe place, a quiet place, a refuge. He sheds the hypervigilance he displays in the neighborhood; his body visibly relaxes as he leans back in the passenger seat. In the car, his conversation extends beyond immediate needs of food, sleep, or clean laundry.

The morning he brought up death and dying, I suggested that living often takes courage; I reminded him of his inner strength; that he has shown in his living skills how wise he is - in ways his teachers don't understand. He responded, "I've been through this before [unstable living situation]. He continued, as if picking up a story running thought his head...my father stayed two years. With all the kids, my mom could have walked away; she didn't... she stayed; she didn't have to, but she did. His mom is struggling to make ends meet... and they don't. His mom is a good person, a loving mom. Do his teachers make any connection between falling asleep in class, understand that stress and school food aren't compatible? That taking care of babies is sometimes too much for eleven and 14 year olds? That wondering if 'home' will be there after 3:00 wears on a child's emotions throughout the day?

Do his teachers know the life of this child? Would Mr. 'H' understand that my friend is already facing more of what makes a man than Mr. 'H' could ever be? My thought about the school, SPPS, but specifically Battle Creek, is how does the school system effectively silo the 'experience that is developmentally responsive,

challenging, empowering and equitable'? Are there no effective, on-staff social workers? How does no adult in the school notice that a child attends school day after day in below 0 weather, wearing only shirt sleeves? How does a teacher not ask why a child falls asleep in class? Not ask what is going on at home? Not ask, 'what can I do to help?' Is it fear of being involved? Unfortunately, too many would remind me they cannot touch a child, have to be careful how they word their questions, etc. I understand that. But in so doing, you are letting...no...you are encouraging a child to die an emotional, psychological, if not physical death. Overwhelmed, overworked, underpaid...the school system needs to reconfigure funding, time, goals, effectiveness and capabilities. Where is the outreach between school and family? Where is the outreach to the student?

'St. Paul Public Schools is committed to providing a successful middle school model that supports students during a key transition time in their lives.' It is my belief that 'students' means ALL students. Am I mistaken? Who is answerable as this child enters high school where, in all probability, he will find himself even more isolated?

I asked the teacher, principal and superintendent if they had anything to say about the situation of this child and his school. They did not respond.

Sage Holben can be reached by email at [daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com](mailto:daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com).

## You got somethin' to say? Say it here!

The Dayton's Bluff District Forum welcomes all opinions and neighborhood anecdotes – send yours to: [daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com](mailto:daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com).

Opinions expressed in signed articles appearing on page 6 may not represent the views of the Forum.

Deadline for the July issue of the Forum is June 10, 2019.

## Open letter to our congressional reps

Andy Kurian  
Special to the Forum

I took a micro entrepreneur program in the Dayton's Bluff area. I've moved from the area since, but a friend I advocate with at the Capitol writes for the *Dayton's Bluff District Forum*. Last November, he interviewed me after a policy making program - that gave me a better understanding of the trajectory of disability funding. The Trump Ad-

ministration is a threat to everything though, from our democratic institutions, global stability, and human habitability.

Congressional Democrats, as you get ready to negotiate the budget and an infrastructure plan... it's time we change the Capitol enterprise. Everything from how we organize, to how we foster innovation in the private sector. "45" said he's open to a new public/private arrangement.

@ideaActivist  
#GreenNewDeal  
#intelligentLivesMN

## World Wide Holidays in June

Temperance Brennan  
Forum Contributor

We finally made it through the winter in Minnesota and that is probably reason enough to celebrate. Then of course this month in the United States features Flag Day and Father's Day. As an anthropologist, however, perhaps I can get you to consider thinking about some of the celebrations in Asia, Africa, Canada, and other parts of the globe. Here are a few world wide holidays in June.

**June 6: Memorial Day** is set aside to honor the Korean soldiers and civilians who have given their lives for their country. The largest ceremony is held at the National Cemetery in Seoul South Korea.

**June 11: Kamehameha Day** is a public holiday in the state of Hawaii in the United States. It honors Kamehameha the Great, the monarch who first established the Unified Kingdom of Hawaii' comprising the many Hawaiian Islands.

**June 18: Constitution Day**, also sometimes referred to as "National Day" In Seychelles. The date was chosen because it was on this day in 1993

that a referendum passed which made Seychelles a truly democratic, multi-party democracy.

**June 19: José Artigas' Birthday Memorial in Uruguay.** Jose Gervasio Artigas Arnal is the national hero of Uruguay and hence is sometimes also known as the father of Uruguayan independence.

**June 24: National Holiday of Quebec (La Fête nationale du Québec)** is a holiday in the Canadian province of Quebec celebrated on St. John the Baptist Day, the patron saint of French Canadians.

**June 26: Independence Day** is celebrated in Mozambique. This is the African country's national day and celebrates its independence from Portugal in 1975. It is also known as Dia da Independência Nacional.



The flag of Mozambique

Temperance Brennan can be reached at [daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com](mailto:daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com).

dayton's bluff

## Featured

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**Wednesdays @ DB!**

12-3 p.m. Job Search/Computer Skills/Open Lab

...AND FROM 3-4 p.m.

**Summer Spark Performances!**

June 12: Cock-a-Doodle Zoo

June 19: Hooperina

June 26: America's Fun Science

& later that same day ...

**Puppet Palooza!**

Open Eye Theatre  
Driveway Tour Presents:

**Ms. Marvel's Sandbox Circus**

Face-painting, games, snacks,  
& fun for the whole family!

Wednesday, June 26 5:30-8 p.m.

**Saints** READING TREE

A Saints player, children's book author, and Madonna read children's books this summer! Learn more at [stpl.org/reading-tree](http://stpl.org/reading-tree).

**Summer Spark** TEEN

YOUR SUMMER. YOUR CHOICE. Read and rate books and enter to win great prizes. Learn more at [stpl.org/summer](http://stpl.org/summer).

## East Side Eating – Trimble's Taste Trek

Forum contributor Steve Trimble has set out to eat at every locally-owned, sit-down restaurant on the East Side. He hopes to get the word out to Dayton's Bluff about the eating options here on our side of town.

There are more restaurants than there is room for in the monthly paper, but at least 59 may now be found online at [daytonsbuffdistrictforum.org](http://daytonsbuffdistrictforum.org): click on "East Side Eating" at the top of the home page. Steve Trimble can be reached at [daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com](mailto:daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com).

### Asian Street Food

(651) 771-5142

1400 Arcade Street

St. Paul, MN 55106

Tuesday-Sunday: 11:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

<https://www.asfstp.com>

A lot of people have been wondering what is happening to the empty building that housed Romolo's for many years. Finally, after more than a year, a new restaurant recently opened. So, I had to check it out for our readers. I went there on a Sunday and had lunch. Inside, I found a newly renovated site with a dozen tables for four and one for six or more. The decor consists mostly of red and black colors on the walls. The new carpeting is black as are the new table tops. Not a lot of decorations on the walls, but there is a large flat screen television that was playing when I arrived.

Asian Street Food is a self-proclaimed fusion restaurant and it seems to be true. I saw Chinese, Thai, Korean, Hmong, and Japanese dishes and I may have missed others. Here is a selection of some of the offerings. Soups: Kao Poon, Kimchi Jigae - a classic Korean treat, Pho, including pork belly, beef brisket, tendon, tripe, and meatballs. Some of the salads are cucumber, laab (minced chicken or beef), papaya salad, and an interesting dish of spicy octopus salad with lettuce, cucumber, carrots, and herbs.

There are 15 appetizers including beef or chicken skewers, ream cheese puffs, edamame, egg rolls, Kimchi (Korean pickled vegetables), seaweed salad, tako yaki-deep fried octopus dumplings, and short ribs grilled with Korean barbecue sauce.

There is a hearty selection of fried rice and noodle dishes including regular fried rice, pad Thai, udon noodles, and dried pho, which is pho-flavored dried noodles served with meatballs topped with bean sprouts and peanuts. There are nine entrees and all are served with steamed rice. Some of them are beef bulgogi grilled with Korean barbecue sauce, chicken teriyaki, Chinese broccoli stir fry, green curry, and sour pork ribs - deep fried fermented meat with pepper kaffir, lime leaves, and garlic.

Beverages include coconut juice, Coke products, and Thai iced coffee or iced tea. The dessert menu features three kinds of ice cream, tempura cheesecake, and tempura ice cream.

I decided to order Pad Thai with pork along with a can of Foco coconut juice from Thailand. It has tiny chunks of coconut in the juice. I passed on dessert, but might come back and try one or more of them.

I had a nice talk with Nkaujntxawm Xiong, my friendly and able server. She told me that the owner, Teng Thao, also has two other restaurants. One is in Woodbury and the other in the Uptown area of Minneapolis. My server lives on the East Side and is a recent graduate of Johnson High School. She felt that the fusion food was a good idea because the Hmong people have moved through many countries and have often adopted some of their differing cuisine into Hmong cooking.

There is parking behind the building. When you see it it's clear that years ago this was a drive-in restaurant. The cars need to navigate into slots that once had a call-in mechanism and there is a canopy over all the spaces. Any readers remember what it was named even before it became Romolo's?

Steve Trimble can be reached at [daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com](mailto:daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com).



Steve Trimble

Asian Street Food, located at 1400 Arcade Street.

Pictured at right is the May 3 grand opening of Karibu Grocery and Deli, at 719 Payne Avenue.

Mayor Melvin Carter, Senator Founq Hawj, Councilmember Jane Prince, Frank Altman, African Development Center, Dr. Bruce, and Don Lor were on hand to assist with the honors.

Photo courtesy of Facebook/Karibu GroceryDeli



## Some East Side History from June Days

Steve Trimble  
Forum Staff

**June 20, 2005:** The first Mexican consulate in Minnesota opened at 797 East Seventh Street in St. Paul on this day. The establishment of this office was a sign of increased Latino presence in the state and the East Side of the city. The Mexican flag now flies over the 46<sup>th</sup> consulate in the United States. At the time, 11% of the residents were Hispanic, tripled from 1990. The consulate resides inside a remodeled section of the CLUES Comunidades Latinas Unidas en Servicio building, a Latino social services organization.

Previously, the closest consulate was in Chicago. It would now be easier to obtain passports, identification cards, find a notary public, discover birth, death, and marriage certificates, get advice on migration, labor, and legal issues, and partake in cultural programs.

People can also get a Mexican identification card called a matricula consularalta segurida. Rev. Eugene Michel of nearby Sacred Heart Catholic Church which hosts a large Latino congregation said that the parishioners were "very pleased that the consulate is going to be in our neighborhood. It brings a sense of pride." The *Pioneer Press* agreed that the "Mexican consulate enhances the community." The organization serves Mexicans living in Minnesota, North Dakota, South , and northern Wisconsin.

**June 21, 1990:** Just before dawn on this day, a small group of teenagers burned a crudely-made cross in the fenced-in front yard of an African American family living on Earl Street in Dayton's Bluff. A youth identified as RAV in court records was prosecuted under the Bias-Motivated Crime Ordinance, which prohibited the display of a symbol which one knows or has reason to know "arouses anger, alarm, or resentment in others on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, or gender."

The juvenile's defense attorney moved to dismiss the count on the grounds that it was too over-broad and violated his client's First Amendment rights. The trial court granted the motion, but the Minnesota Supreme Court later reversed the decision, rejecting petitioner's overbreadth claim. The defense appealed, and the United States Supreme Court heard the case.

On June 22, 1992, the U. S. Supreme Court invalidated the city's bias-motivated crime ordinance in the *RAV v. City of St. Paul* decision. The Court concluded, in part, "Let

there be no mistake about our belief that burning a cross in someone's front yard is reprehensible. But St. Paul has sufficient means at its disposal to prevent such behavior without adding the First Amendment to the fire." This decision is now one of the most cited in court cases.

**June 23, 1969:** Warren Burger took office in the U. S. Supreme Court on this day. He was born in St. Paul and lived with family in a small house at 695 Conway in Dayton's Bluff. He graduated from Van Buren School and Johnson High School. He earned a law degree in 1931 from the St. Paul College of Law, attending night classes while working for an insurance company. He was appointed to the faculty of his law school upon graduation.

Burger practiced law until 1953, when he was appointed Assistant Attorney General of the United States. In 1955, he started serving on the U. S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. President Nixon nominated him for Chief Justice of the U. S. Supreme Court in 1969. On issues involving criminal law and procedure, Burger usually took a conservative view, although at times he sided with the liberal members. In his role of Chief Justice, he was most concerned with administering and improving the mechanics of the nation's legal system.

Burger retired from the Court on September 26, 1986, after 17 years of service, and President Reagan appointed him Chairman of the Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution which he directed from 1986 to 1992.

**June 24, 1929:** People were fascinated with the development of flight, and crowds of onlookers often stood on the bluffs overlooking the airport watching take-offs. One such group was in Indian Mounds Park on this day. Unfortunately what they saw was a Northwest Airlines passenger/airmail plane from the St. Paul airport on its way to Chicago lose power and crash near the intersection of Mounds Boulevard and today's Wilshire Street.

The first one out of the aircraft was the steward who kicked open one of the windows and crawled out. After assisting the seven passengers, he went to help pilot Edwin Middagh, but it was too late. He was dead or knocked unconscious upon impact, and as the steward tried to extract him from the wreckage, the cockpit burst into flames. All passengers had injuries and were taken to local hospitals. Four local residents were burned while trying to assist rescue efforts. Another was slightly injured when the plane's wing took out the front porch where he was sitting at the time.

Once the fire was put out, some onlookers entered the wreckage looking for souvenirs. Neighborhood kids sold pieces of the plane to the crowds of people coming to see the crash.

Steve Trimble can be reached at [daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com](mailto:daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com).



Pictured at left is a crowd gathered around the aftermath of a Northwest Airlines plane crash on June 24, 1929. The crash happened at the intersection of Mounds Boulevard and today's Wilshire Street, near Indian Mounds Park.

Photo courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society.

*Many thanks to our 2019 donors:*

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- Barbara Wakefield



Several readers send us pictures of themselves reading our newspaper on their travels, and around our neighborhood. If you'd like to do the same, please email photos to: [daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com](mailto:daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com).

Pictured above is Aaron Levine, reading the *Forum* at Tianzifang in Shanghai. Tianzifang is three blocks of winding alleys of old Shikumen architecture. It has been preserved and is now a collection of touristy shops, studios, restaurants, and even still homes of some local residents. It remains charming.

**Friends of the *Forum***

Dear Reader,

The *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* has been a volunteer-run newspaper since the 1980s and has always operated on a minimal budget. Each issue costs around \$1,900 to produce and mail, per month. For the past three years we have been soliciting donations through our *Friends of the Forum* program. Thanks to the donations of readers like you, we have been able to keep the paper up and running. If you value this community source of information, please consider filling out the form below. Any amount is appreciated; you may also make memorial donations, or include the *Forum* in your legacy planning. If you have been our *Friend* in the past, please renew your membership with a donation in 2019. **Our goal for 2019 is \$18,000; thanks to readers like you, we've raised \$1715 to date – will you help us reach our goal in 2019?**

Sincerely,  
The *Dayton's Bluff District Forum*



Stephen Hurley reads the *Forum* in China, where he teaches for a few weeks at a university each year.

Yes, I will become a *Friend of the Forum*. My tax-deductible check is enclosed, for:

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Thank you for your support!